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SOURCE Saglik Memurlari Dergisi, 1952.TRAINING OF RUMANIAN HEALTH OFFICERS

[Comment: Increased efforts are reported throughout the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) to improve and safeguard the health of the Rumanian population. Recent press articles speak of the construction of numerous rural health centers, which are intended to serve the village and mountain population.]

The problem of staffing these newly organized rural health centers appears to be a difficult one, however, in view of the acute shortage of fully trained medical personnel. According to the following article, taken from a Turkish periodical, Saglik Memurlari Dergisi, the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Rumanian Higher Education Committee, has set up two schools for the training of health officers. No detailed information is given in the Rumanian press available in CIA on the activities of such health officers. However, the following article offers some information on their training, as well as on their subsequent assignments and activities.]

The Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Rumanian Higher Education Committee, has set up two schools for health officers in Rumania, one in Craiova and the other in Calarasi. The duties of the graduate health officers are as follows.

Immediately after graduation, health officers receive the title of "oficiant sanitar" or "agent sanitar" and are assigned to village health centers, called "circumscripția." In their position as "agenti sanitari" the graduates are directly concerned with the health condition of the villages. They have at their disposal sufficient quantities of drugs to meet their needs, and, as the medicines are used, new supplies are sent from Bucharest.

Every health officer has a mandatory term of at least 5 years in a village. After this period elapses, health officers desiring promotions must apply to the Ministry of Health for permission to take a special examination, give at a

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hospital designated by the ministry. If successful, the health officers serve a year's apprenticeship at the hospital where they were examined, 6 months' time being devoted to surgery and 6 months to internal medicine.

After completing this one-year period of training, the former health officers are then assigned to another hospital, with the title of "sub-chirurg" (assistant surgeon). Here the "sub-chirurg" handle all types of cases and assist the surgeon in all operations. The hospital provides them with meals and private residence.

After working for a period of time at the hospital, the "sub-chirurg" may apply once again to the Ministry of Health for another set of examinations; this time the sub-chirurg are examined on the various laws, rules, and regulations of the Ministry of Health. The next step is a 6-month apprenticeship at an assigned hospital, which qualifies the applicant for the post of administrative director or "intendent." Anyone desiring such an appointment must have graduated without exception, from one of the health officials' schools.

In Bucharest there is a health officers union headed by a woman. The union maintains a hospital in Sinaia which is free to all members, but which is also open to paying patients. Health officers receive many other benefits from the state and the hospital as well.

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